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CONSTITUTION,

BY-LAWS,

AND

LIST OF OFFICERS,

OF THE

Philadelphia Young Men's Bible Society;

WITH

AN ADDRESS TO CHRISTIANS.

REORGANIZED FEBRUARY, 1840.

PHILADELPHIA:

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TO CHRISTIANS OF THE SEVERAL RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND THE ADJACENT INCORPORATED DISTRICTS.

At a meeting of the Managers of the Pennsylvania Young Men's Bible Society, held in the *Bible Room*, February 23d, 1840, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, the Bible Society of Philadelphia having, by a recent alteration in its charter, changed its name to the "Pennsylvania Bible Society," and having by an unanimous vote become Auxiliary to the American Bible Society, so far as to contribute all its surplus funds to the Treasury of that Society, after supplying the wants of our own State, therefore resolved,

1. That it be recommended to the Pennsylvania Young Men's Bible Society to substitute the name of Philadelphia, in lieu of Pennsylvania.
2. That it become Auxiliary to the Pennsylvania Bible Society.
3. That its operations be restricted to the city of Philadelphia, and the adjacent incorporated districts.

By the changes made, as above mentioned, in the constitution of the State and the City Bible Societies, you will perceive, that uniformity of plan and harmony of action, things so desirable in all causes, and especially in the great cause of the Bible, are now happily secured. The City and the Districts have been assigned to us as the field of our operations; and, by a recent arrangement with the Philadelphia Tract Society, each tract visiter is requested

to report to us every family found destitute of the Sacred Volume, that its wants may be supplied. Thus you see that we have a great work to do. That we may be enabled to carry out our plans successfully, and that all may have an opportunity, by contributing regularly of their means, to aid us in our efforts, it is our intention that the cause of the Bible shall be presented to every congregation of Protestant Christians, within the sphere of our operations, **ONCE EVERY YEAR.** Such then being our objects, and such our plans for effecting them, we now, therefore, look to you for active co-operation and efficient aid, and we feel that we shall not look in vain. While in other plans of Christian benevolence, different denominations pursue, each, their own distinctive course, the circulation of the Scriptures, without note or comment, is a platform broad enough for all to stand on, and that, too, without the least collision of interests or difference of views. The present arrangements are such as, we think, must strike you as peculiarly felicitous. The catholic spirit of the American Bible Society is well known to you all; and while it is our duty to use every effort to ascertain the wants of our own immediate region,—to supply those wants,—and then to hand over our surplus funds to the Pennsylvania Society; it is the object of this Society, first to supply the wants of our own state, and after that, to give all its aid to the American Society, whose “field is the world.” Thus you see that this moral machinery of the Bible cause is simple and complete, the smaller wheels playing into the larger, and all tending to one grand result. Thus, while your charities

will begin at home, they will not end there. A single dollar contributed by you, may furnish some destitute family within our own precincts with the Word of Life, or it may be the means of carrying that Word to the farthest nations of the East. To induce a Christian to aid such a cause, no arguments, surely, are necessary. He who would need one has still greater need of a faithful self-examination, since there cannot be an individual, however limited his means, who will not feel it a privilege to contribute something, yearly, to communicate to others the blessings of that Volume on which alone he depends for his own salvation.

C. D. CLEVELAND, *President.*

JOHN SPARHAWK, *Rec. Secretary.*

Philadelphia, January 1, 1841.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called THE PHILADELPHIA YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE SOCIETY, AUXILIARY TO THE PENNSYLVANIA BIBLE SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this Society shall be to distribute the Sacred Scriptures, without note or comment, in the city of Philadelphia and the adjacent incorporated districts, and to aid the Pennsylvania Bible Society, and, through it, the American Bible Society, with its surplus funds.

ARTICLE III.

Any individual contributing one dollar, or upwards, shall be a member for one year ; and by contributing fifteen dollars, at any one time, shall be a member for life.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and forty Directors, who shall be elected annually, and constitute a Board of Managers, nine of whom shall constitute a quorum, and shall meet, for the transaction of business, once a month, at a time to be designated by themselves, and oftener, if necessary, on adjournment, or at a call of the President.

ARTICLE V.

The Board of Managers shall have the power of filling any vacancy that may occur in their body, and the places of any of the members shall be considered vacant who do not attend to their duties for three months, if two-thirds of the members present shall concur therein.

ARTICLE VI.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board and of the Society. In his absence a Vice-President shall preside. The Recording Secretary shall summon all meetings, and keep the minutes of the same. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society, and prepare the Annual Report, under the direction of the Board. The Treasurer shall take charge of all moneys received, and hold them, subject to the order of the Board.

ARTICLE VII.

There shall be a public meeting of the Society on such day in the month of May as shall be determined by the Board of Managers, at its stated meeting in the month of April; when the Managers shall present an Annual Report of their proceedings, and new Managers be chosen for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VIII.

Any Bible association within the city, and adjacent incorporated districts, which shall pay over its surplus funds to the Society, shall be cordially received as an Auxiliary, and its contributions acknowledged in the Annual Report.

ARTICLE IX.

All meetings of the Board shall be opened with reading a portion of the Scriptures, and closed with prayer.

ARTICLE X.

No alterations shall be made in this Constitution, except at an annual meeting, or at a meeting called by a vote of its Managers, (due notice being first given in three of the daily newspapers, three days previous to said meeting,) and then not without consent of two-thirds of the members present.

OFFICERS.

President,

CHARLES D. CLEVELAND.

Vice-Presidents,

J. H. AGNEW,	JOSHUA COWPLAND,
JAMES BAYARD,	ISAAC MUSSELMAN.

Corresponding Secretary,

E. C. WINES.

Recording Secretary,

JOHN SPARHAWK.

Treasurer,

GEORGE B. REESE.

General Agent of the Society,

JOHN C. PHELPS.*

* The Agent's Office is in the Bible Rooms, over 144 Chestnut street, where he may be found every afternoon from three to six o'clock. Applications for Bibles for Sabbath Schools and Public Institutions, may be left there, addressed to Mr. Clement Cresson, Chairman of the Committee of Distribution. At the same place the Tract Visiters may be supplied with copies of the Scriptures, by simply leaving with the Agent the names and residences of the families found destitute of them.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN ALEXANDER,	WILLIAM HARNED,
GEORGE W. ASPINWALL,	SAMUEL D. HASTINGS,
GEORGE BLIGHT,	GEORGE HUTTON,
EDWIN BOOTH,	LEWIS LEWIS, JR.,
HENRY A. BOWER,	JOHN M'ARTHUR,
WILLIAM C. BRADLEY,	JOHN M'CLURE,
CHARLES N. BROCK,	WILLIAM MAURICE,
MARTIN BUEHLER,	BENJAMIN G. MITCHELL,
LEMUEL COFFIN,	WILLIAM M. MUZZEY,
PHILIP A. CREGAR,	J. ENGLE NEGUS,
CLEMENT CRESSON,	FRANCIS NEWLAND,
WINTHROP CUNNINGHAM,	JAMES W. PAUL,
THEODORE CUYLER,	THOMAS K. PETERSON,
WILLIAM T. DONALDSON,	JACOB REESE, JR.,
JACOB R. ECKFELDT,	ISAAC SULGER,
WILLIAM T. ELBERT,	WILLIAM THOMPSON,
JOHN ELLIOTT,	C. WEST THOMSON,
JOHN C. FARR,	JOHN R. WILMER,
JOHN L. GODDARD,	LAMBERT WILMER,
WILLIAM R. HANSON,	W. W. WOOD.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Committee of Ways and Means,

John M'Arthur,	Winthrop Cunningham,
	John R. Wilmer.

Committee on Accounts,

John L. Goddard,	George B. Reese,
	John Sparhawk.

Committee on Distribution,

Clement Cresson,	Lewis Lewis, Jr.,
George W. Aspinwall,	William Maurice,
Edwin Booth,	J. Engle Negus,
Charles N. Brook,	James W. Paul,
Theodore Cuyler,	Thomas K. Peterson,
William Harned,	Jacob Reese, Jr.,
George Hutton,	Isaac Sulger,
	C. West Thomson.

Committee on Depository,

Joshua Cowpland,	John Alexander,
	George Blight.

Committee on Auxiliaries,

Rev. J. H. Agnew,	John C. Farr,
Henry A. Bower,	William R. Hanson,
William C. Bradley,	Samuel D. Hastings,
Martin Buehler,	John M'Clure,
Lemuel Coffin,	Benjamin G. Mitchell,
Philip A. Cregar,	William M. Muzzey,
William T. Donaldson,	Francis Newland,
Jacob R. Eckfeldt,	William Thompson,
William T. Elbert,	Lambert Wilmer,
John Elliott,	W. W. Wood.

B Y - L A W S.

ARTICLE I

The Stated Meetings of the Board shall be held on the third Monday of every month.

ARTICLE II.

The order of business at each stated meeting shall be as follows:

1. To call the Roll.
- 2 To read a portion of the Scriptures.
3. To read and adopt the minutes of the preceding meeting.
4. To hear the Agent's Report.
5. To hear the Treasurer's Report.
6. To hear the Corresponding Secretary's Report.
7. To hear the Reports of Standing Committees.
8. To hear the Reports of Special Committees.
9. Unfinished business.
10. New business.
11. Prayer.

ARTICLE III.

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed at the second meeting of the Board of Managers after the annual meeting:

1. Committee of Ways and Means.
2. " on Accounts.
3. " on the Depository.
4. " on Distribution.
5. " on Auxiliaries.

ARTICLE IV.

Committee of Ways and Means.

SECT. 1. It shall be the duty of this Committee to devise, and report from time to time, the best practicable methods for increasing the funds of the Society. This Committee shall consist of three.

Committee on Accounts.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to examine all the accounts and bills brought against the Society, and to report the same at each stated meeting. This Committee shall consist of three.

Committee on the Depository.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of this Committee to have a general supervision of the Depository, and to procure Bibles and Testaments for it, as ordered by the Board. They shall report at each stated meeting. Committee to consist of three.

Committee on Distribution.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of this Committee to take measures to supply individuals, religious or charitable societies and institutions with the Scriptures at prime cost, or gratuitously, according to circumstances, and shall report at each stated meeting. Committee to consist of fifteen.

Committee on Auxiliaries.

SECT. 5. It shall be the duty of this Committee to organize Auxiliaries to this Society, and to have a general supervision of the same. They shall report their proceedings at each stated meeting.

ARTICLE V.

A Depository of Bibles and Testaments shall be established, from which no books shall be drawn, except by action of the Committee on Distribution, or by an order from a member of that Committee.

ARTICLE VI.

The Treasurer shall not pay any bill until it has been examined by the Committee on Accounts, approved by the Board of Managers, and certified by the Secretary. He shall present a report at each stated meeting.

ARTICLE VII.

Two Auditors shall be appointed annually, who shall examine the Treasurer's accounts, and present a statement of the same, signed by them, at the stated meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting in each year.

ARTICLE VIII.

Any member having a motion to offer, shall address the chair, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless by a call to order. The motion being seconded, it shall be reduced to writing, and then may be altered or amended. No member shall speak more than twice on any question without leave from the chair. The President, after debate, shall propose the question to the members for their vote, *pro* or *con*, in all which matters a majority shall prevail; and in case of a tie, the President shall give the casting vote. The yeas and nays shall be recorded at the request of three members present.

ARTICLE IX.

No business under consideration shall be interrupted, but by a motion to amend, divide, commit, or postpone. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order.

ARTICLE X.

All elections for officers and managers shall be by ballot, and a majority of the votes of the members present shall be necessary to constitute a choice.

ARTICLE XI.

No alteration shall be made in these By-Laws, unless the same shall have been proposed at a stated meeting, and receive the concurrence of a majority of the members present at the next stated meeting.

CONSTITUTION

FOR

SABBATH SCHOOL AUXILIARIES.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called "The Sunday School Bible Society of the _____ Church of _____, Auxiliary to the Philadelphia Young Men's Bible Society."

ARTICLE II.

Its object shall be to aid the Parent Society with funds, for the purpose of circulating the Holy Scriptures among those who need them.

ARTICLE III.

A President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from among the teachers; and two Boards of Managers, of _____ each, from among the teachers and scholars; one from the male, the other from the female department.

ARTICLE IV.

All the scholars, that, from time to time, contribute to the funds, shall be members of the Society, and be entitled to vote at its meetings.

ARTICLE V.

The Managers shall collect subscriptions and donations, and, on the second Sabbath of each month, hand them over to the Treasurer, who shall pay the same, quarterly, to the Chairman of the Auxiliary Committee of the Parent Society.

ARTICLE VI.

Each Auxiliary shall be entitled to receive, for actual distribution among the destitute, or for the use of the school out of which it is organized, Bibles and Testaments, to the amount of its contribution.

ARTICLE VII.

The annual meeting of the Society shall take place on the fourth Monday of April, in each year, when a report of the proceedings of the past year shall be presented, to be immediately transmitted to the Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Society. An election shall then take place for officers, to serve until the next annual meeting, and for a delegate to attend the annual meeting of the Philadelphia Young Men's Bible Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

It shall be the duty of the President, at the request of three Managers, to call a special meeting of the Boards. Three present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX.

No alteration shall be made in this Constitution without the consent of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the Society specially called for that purpose.